

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Location: Marriott: 5500 Hilton Drive, Baton Rouge, LA

**June 8, 2021**

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Edwin Parker, David Hoover, Lionel Bailey, Ben Babin, Jack Harris, Felicia Lee, James Little, Angela Machen, Richard St. Pierre, Larry Thomas, Don Thompson, Kenneth Welborn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Willie George Lee

ALSO, PRESENT: ARBC Executive Director Dietmar Rietschier, ARBC Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, ARBC Legal Counsel Larry Bankston

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Parker.
2. Roll Call (see above).
3. Public Comments on Agenda Items: None
4. Guest Speakers: Representatives of the Louisiana Watershed Initiative – Pat Forbes (Office of Community Development), Rachele Sanderson (Capital Region Planning Commission) made a presentation about the Louisiana Watershed Initiative in general and specifically about the governance proposed for Regional Watershed 7 which includes the Amite River Basin. After the presentation, Board members expressed concerns about the uncertainty of the roles of ARBC within the proposed Watershed Region 7, specifically regarding the proposed governance for Region 7 and the statutory governance of the Amite River Basin. ARBC members asked questions and gave suggestions on how the ARBC and the Capital Region Planning Commission, the agency proposed to manage Watershed Region 7, need to coordinate activities and define roles and activities within the Amite River Basin.
5. Minutes
  - The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Bailey to approve the April 2021 regular meeting minutes.
  - The Board unanimously approved a motion by St. Pierre, second by Thompson to approve the May 24, 2021 special meeting minutes.
6. Executive Director Report
  - Comite River Diversion Canal Project Report as follows:
    - a. Rietschier presented the LA DOTD Report as follows: Real Estate Status: 77 Acquired, 2 in closing, 4 in negotiations, and 1 needs appraisals. Reviewed Utility Relocations Status. Project Management: LA HWY 964 is 100% designed and advertised, June 23<sup>rd</sup> letting. CMAR LA HWY 67 is 100% designs, construction contract to be executed June 2021. LA HWY 19 is 90% designs, construction contract to be executed by the end of June or early July 2021.
  - Borrow & Fill Material CEA – ARBC-EBRSO: The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thomas, second by Babin to approve a CEA between ARBC and EBRSO for Borrow and Fill Material at \$1.50 CY.
  - Rietschier reported that consultants were able to perform approximately 40 high-water marks from the May 2021 flood.
7. ARBC Legal Counsel: Bankston informed the Board that years ago the Board authorized the Executive Director to execute Subordination Agreements with utility companies, as prepared by DOTD. Two recently done are with DEMCO on Hwy 19 and Hwy 67.
8. Old Business: None

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9. New Business: ARBC Commissioner Babin exited the meeting at this time.  
The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Bailey to approve the 2020-2021 Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire, as presented.
10. Financial Statement Report  
Bailey presented to the Board the April and May 2021 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Little to approve the April and May 2021 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.
11. Administrative Budget of 2020-2021 – Amendment #1. As there were no public comments, the Board unanimously approved a motion by Thomas, second by St. Pierre to approve the Administrative Budget of 2020-2021 Amendment #1, as presented.
12. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson second by St. Pierre to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

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/s/ Edwin Parker, ARBC President  
Date: 7/20/21

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/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary